

Tools for Schools Case Study: Chicopee High School, Chicopee, MA

In 1997, the Chicopee School District endorsed the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Tools for Schools (TFS) kits for implementation in 2 pilot schools, Streiber Elementary and Chicopee High Schools. The Chicopee School District is being used as a regional model by the EPA and received the Certificate of Achievement for completing the Tools for Schools Pilot School Training Program. An Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Team was formed within the school district.

The team consists of:

- ◆ The IAQ coordinator, representing Administration
- ◆ A representative of the Chicopee Education Association
- ◆ A representative from the Facilities Management
- ◆ A member of the Parent-Teacher Association
- ◆ A member of the Cafeteria Workers Association
- ◆ Head nurse of the school system



The Chicopee School district was recruited to participate in Tools for Schools by EPA's partner, the Western Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health.

Team Members received training on use of the Tools for Schools kit.

In May 1997, the Chicopee High School personnel received TFS checklists, upon which they received training. The checklists of teachers' room were completed and collated by the IAQ coordinator and *Western MassCOSH* (Massachusetts Coalition of Occupational Safety and Health).

The IAQ Team conducted a walk-through inspection of the high school. Afterwards, many of the checklist concerns were confirmed by the team members.

Results Of The Walk-Through:

- ▶ Clean, well maintained old school with typical "old building" concerns
- ▶ Second floor classrooms experience *extreme temperatures*
- ▶ Moisture and mold problems in basement, stairwells, walls, ceilings
- ▶ Pest control
- ▶ Carpet damage
- ▶ Odor complaints
- ▶ HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) problems
- ▶ Ceiling tiles replacement
- ▶ Fumes from school buses flowing into the high school

These problems were prioritized into **three** categories to address:

- ▶ Immediate
- ▶ Capital Expenditures
- ▶ Research Topics

Issues To Be Addressed in the Summer of 1998:

- Moisture stains on ceiling tiles & walls
- Faucet leaks in classrooms
- Carpet stains from spills in classrooms & library
- Vents and exhausts problems
- Odors in classrooms, kitchen, and dumpster
- Water leaks near gymnasium
- Dust in the computer room
- Leaking con pump & undetermined moisture growth in basement and restroom
- Alternative to cleaning solvent for printing class

More Costly, Prioritized Issues To Be Addressed ASAP:

- Moisture problems in basement, in corners and walls.
- Old curtains & shades to be removed due to dust problems
- Research & repair moisture concerns
- Pest/Insect problems in classrooms

The Following To Be Researched:

- Carpet buckling with humidity in classrooms
- Condensation on windows during the winter
- Chalk dust problem near the heating vent
- Dust problem from the grill above teacher's desk on windy days
- Check window sills for decay
- Dusty books in the library